GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1744
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2016
Women Empowerment
Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Nagar Shri Rodmal;Nishad Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the condition of minority women in the country and the problems generally encountered by them, especially in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has prepared/proposes to prepare any action plan for empowerment of women belonging to the minority communities and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any recommendation to this affect from the National Commission for Women; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)
(a) to (c) Keeping in view the low level of literacy among minority women, their socio-economic backwardness, general lack of awareness about Government programmes and social deprivation, Ministry of Minority Affairs implements an exclusive scheme "Nai Roshni" for Leadership Development of Minority Women with an aim to empower and instill confidence in women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and intermediaries at all levels. The scheme is implemented through selected Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) all over the country.The scheme provides one week training programmes followed by handholding for a period of one year. The training is provided on various pre-designed Training modules covering issues relating to women viz. Leadership of Women through participation in decision making, Educational Programmes for women, Health and Hygiene, Legal rights of women, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, Swachch Bharat, Life Skills, and Advocacy for Social and Behavioural change. Moreover, to promote education including higher education, Ministry has earmarked minimum 30% seats for minority girls/women in its all educational schemes. For their economic empowerment, minimum 33% seats have been earmarked in all Skill development schemes of the Ministry. Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), an autonomous body under the Ministry, implements an exclusive "Maulana Azad National Scholarship Scheme for Meritorious Girls" for scholarship in Class XI and XII. In addition, National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a Central Sector Public Enterprise under the Ministry, implements an exclusive scheme for minority women called "Mahila Samriddhi Yojana" for their economic empowerment, and also gives preference to women in its lending schemes, particularly Micro-Finance at concessional interest rates.

(d) and (e)As per information received from National Commission for Women, an Expert Committee was constituted in October,2013 on violence against women of minority communities and they have included their recommendation in their Annual Report, 2014-15. The general recommendations of the Committee are at Annexure. As per the mandate of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, minority women are already being sensitized about their legal rights, health and hygiene, educational programmes, life skills, financial literacy, Social and behavioural change etc. under Nai Roshni scheme. Moreover, Ministry has earmarked minimum 30% seats for minority girls/women in all the educational

schemes. For their economic empowerment, minimum 33% seats have been earmarked in all Skill development schemes of the Ministry. MAEF and NMDFC are taking up special programmes for minority girls/women for promoting their education and economic empowerment respectively.
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